

**Mental Health Nursing
Class Preparation
Antidepressant Therapy**

Directions: Please fill in the blanks and answer the questions in the spaces provided.

1. What is the mechanism by which antidepressant medications achieve their desired effect (regardless of the different physiological processes by which this action is accomplished)?

They keep more neurotransmitters in the synaptic gap so they are bioavailable.

2. For what must a nurse be on the alert with a client who is receiving antidepressant medication?

R/f suicidal ideation

3. When should a nurse expect a client to begin showing signs of symptomatic relief after the initiation of antidepressant therapy?

2-6 weeks

4. Give an example of a tricyclic antidepressant: Imipramine

Give an example of an MAOI: Isocarboxazid

Give an example of an SSRI: Citalopram

5. Describe some common side effects and nursing implications for tricyclic antidepressants.

Weight gain, sedation, nausea, dry mouth, blurred vision, urine retention, constipation, tachycardia, orthostatic hypotension.

6. Hypertensive Crisis is the most potentially life-threatening adverse effect of MAOIs. Symptoms for which the nurse must be on the alert include:

Severe increase BP, tachycardia, SOB, chest pain, severe headache, n/v, sweating, severe anxiety, nosebleeds

7. What must be done to prevent these symptoms from occurring?

Include teaching about avoiding foods with tyramine.